

### Maria Gomez Vega Testimony

My name is Maria Gomez Vega and I am a parent of 6 wonderful children that I love deeply. My children have struggled at school and I always felt like the schools they went to didn't care that they were struggling and didn't support my children or my family. I always wanted my kids to do well but didn't know where to turn to for help. That's when I heard about the Truancy Court Prevention Project while my daughter was at Quirk Middle School. This program cared about who my daughter was and wanted to make sure she was in school every day. My daughter struggled to get along with her teachers because they were always telling her she wasn't going to make it anyway so my daughter didn't want to learn from them. Then she started working with her case manager and she helped my daughter to find the confidence in herself and to work hard to show them she could make it. Her case manager helped her realize that she was in control of her life and the choices that were made. She supported my daughter in her dreams and always encouraged her to work hard.

I'm happy that I got involved with the Truancy program because not only did it help one of my older daughters but it also helped my two younger kids. My other daughter was struggling at Clark School and the program helped get her counseling, got her involved in an after school program and helped her with her applications for high school and she got into the technical school she wanted. The program also helped complete applications for my youngest child and grandkids. My youngest son was accepted to Two Rivers Magnet School and is doing so great. I'm so grateful I got to work with this program and meet people that cared so much for my kids and my family.